

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a data communication system for broadcast communications from a main station to substations. Independent claim 1 includes the recitation of "said main station judges the signal wave said carrier transmitted from one or more of said plural substations and transmits said data addressed to all of said plural substations." Thus, according to this limitation, the main station effects carrier sensing and, whenever receiving a certain signal, retransmits the data addressed to all the plural substations. This feature results in several advantageous effects relative to previous data communication systems. In particular, even if the main station does not explicitly know of the existence of any substations, the main station can avoid the occurrence of errors in performing the query operation. Additionally, the main station does not require previous registration of a substation or require total retransmission request signal NAK. The present communication system will require less maintenance than previous systems, especially in the case of few error occurrences.

Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,404,739 to Gonno in view of Miller et al.

Gonno et al. describes a transmitter retransmitting package data when the transmitter receives a retransmission request (NAK signal) from one or more receivers. In Gonno, the transmitter totals/sums the request and determines the packs to be retransmitted, please see column 9, lines 25-35. The transmitter then sends the determined packets, column 9, lines 36-38. Accordingly, Gonno discloses that after finishing the transmission of data packets, the transmitter will await the reception of the NAK signals for a predetermined time. The transmitter receives and totals NAK signals during waiting time.

Miller et al. discloses that the server sends a status requirement message only to a client which does not respond within an ACK response message, page 50, fifth paragraph. Additionally, according to Miller, the server informs clients that a data transfer is about to start, page 6, fourth paragraph. The client informs a server of its existence and sends a registration response message to the server, page 8, fourth paragraph.

From the disclosure in the cited references and set forth in the preceding two paragraphs, it is clear that the transmitter of Gonno and the server of Miller both know of the existence of the receiver and of the client, respectively. Therefore, a combination system of both Gonno and Miller must know of the existence of a receiver or client, which allegedly corresponds to the claimed substation.

In comparison, the present claims do not require knowing the existence of a substation. Claim 1 recites that whenever the main station receives a certain wave after transmitting said query message, said main station judges the signal wave said carrier transmitted from one or more of said plural substations and retransmits said data addressed to all of said plural substations. This is the opposite of the combination of Gonno and Miller which does need to know the existence of a receiver of client.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gonno in view of Miller et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,473,608 to Gagne et al.

Claim 9 depends from independent claim 1 and would be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claim 1. Gagne et al. does not supplement Gonno and Miller to teach or suggest the present invention. Gagne is cited as teaching user defined time out.

In view of the above, it is clear that the cited references do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully traverses the above rejections and request their withdrawal. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in allowable condition. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

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Respectfully submitted,

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